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THE

Whip-Poor-Will.

BY

GEORGE P. MORRIS.

NEW-YORK.
E. FERRETT & Co
1846

THE

WHIP-POOR-WILL.

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO MORTON M'MICHAEL, ESQ.

BY GEORGE P. MORRIS.

"The plaint of the wailing whip poor will
Who moans unseen, and ceaseless sings
Ever a note of wail and woe
Till morning spreads her rosy wings,
And earth and sky in her glances glow."

E. FERRETT AND CO.

PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

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"Still 'whip-poor-will!'—Art thou a sprite,
From unknown regions sent,
To wander in the gloom of night,
And ask for punishment?

"Dost merely ask thy just desert?
What not another word? —
Back to the woods again, unhurt —
I will not harm thee, bird!

"Dost merely ask thy just desert?
What not another word? —
Back to the woods again, unhurt —
I will not harm thee, bird!

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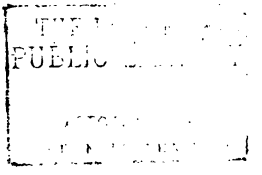
" Why dost thou come at set of sun,
  Those pensive words to say ?
Why whip poor Will ? — What has he done ?
  And who is Will, I pray ?



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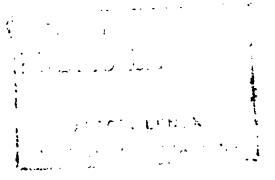
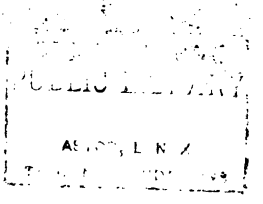


"Art thou a lover, Will? — Hast proved
The fairest can deceive?
Thine is the lot of all who've loved
Since Adam wedded Eve.



"Why come from yon leaf shaded hill,
A suppliant at my door? —
Why ask of me to whip poor Will?
And is Will really poor?

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"Why come from you leaf-shaded hill,
A suppliant at my door? —
Why ask of me to whip poor Will?
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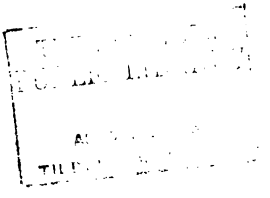
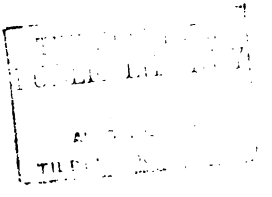


"What, none of these?—Then, whence thy pain,
To guess it who's the skill?
Pray have the kindness to explain
Why I should whip poor Will?

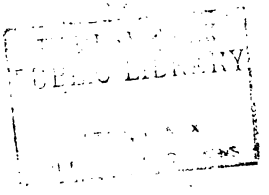


"What, none of these?—Then, whence thy pain,
To guess it who's the skill?
Pray have the kindness to explain
Why I should whip poor Will?

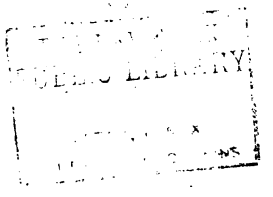
"Yet wherefore strain thy tiny throat,
While other birds repose?
What means thy melancholy note?
The mystery disclose.

"Art Will himself? — It must be so —
I learn it from thy moan,
For none can feel another's woe
As deeply as his own.

"Hast thou in seeking wealth or fame,
A crown of brambles won?
O'er all the earth 'tis just the same
With every mother's son!



"Is thine a conscience sore beset
With guilt — or, what is worse,
Hast thou to meet writs, duns and debt,
No money in thy purse?



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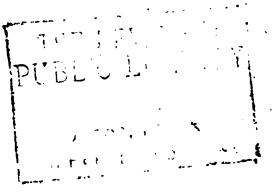

"If this be thy hard fate indeed,
Ah well may'st thou repine:
The sympathy I give I need —
The poet's doom is thine.

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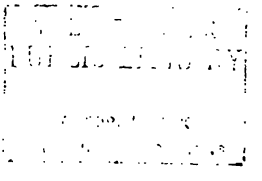
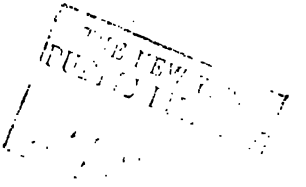
"But treat thee kindly — for my nerves,
Like thine, have penance done;
'Treat every man as he deserves
Who shall 'scape whipping?' — None.

"Farewell poor Will — not valueless
This lesson by thee given:
'Keep thine own counsel, and confess
Thyself alone to heaven!'"

" Hast found the world a Babel wide,
Where man to Mammon stoops ?
Where flourish arrogance and pride,
While modest merit droops ?



"Hast trusted in a friend, and seen
No friend was he in need?
A common error — men still lean
Upon as frail a reed.



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